Sharing of G3 Spectrum

*340. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sharing of G3 Spectrum by various cell phone and land line companies has not been resolved by his Ministry; and

(b) if so, by when the existing dispute would be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Government has not taken decision on allotment of 3G spectrum.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Entry of international players in energy sector

2449. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to allow private firms to build and operate nuclear power plants in the country;

(b) whether Government have examined all aspects of security concerns and risk factors in allowing private sector in this field;

(c) whether Government are also willing to relax norms to allow entry of International players in energy sector to meet country's growing energy demand which would go up to 3,880 billion KWH reportedly by 2031-32; and

(d) whether apart from United States, Government have sought co-operation of any other country to meet our growing demand in nuclear energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 allows nuclear power generation by Government company in which not less than 51 % is held by the Central Government. Private Sector companies already participate in construction of nuclear power plants. No decision has been taken on private sector ownership and operation of nuclear power plants.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) India is exploring co-operation with all potential partners for supply of equipment. However, there is no question of relaxing safety and other norms.

Installation of AHWR in India

†2450. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether world's first Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) is going to be installed in India;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Thorium would be used as fuel in this reactor; and

(c) if so, by when its work would be started and is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The fuel used in the reactor will be mainly Thorium based.

(c) The work on Advanced Heavy Water Reactor is scheduled to commence during the Eleventh Plan period. The details are being worked out and the schedule will be incorporated in the Project Report to be formally submitted for approval of the Government.

Joining N-experiment Club

2451. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has decided to join N-experiment Club spending huge amount of money;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the future plans for production of nuclear power during the next five years and the cost of production per unit of nuclear power; and

(d), the areas likely to be benefitted by this club?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) There are a number of international groupings/projects on nuclear related research. India joined International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) as a full partner in 2006 along with the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States of America. The salient feature of ITER project is to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy for peaceful purposes, an essential feature of which would be achieving sustained fusion power generation. The aim of ITER project is to show that fusion could be used to generate electrical power and to gain the necessary data to design and operate the first electricity producing plant. The resources of the ITER organisation shall be from contributions of member States in agreed proportions. The approximate financial implication on the part of India is estimated at Rs. 2500 crores over a period of 10 years which will be largely in the form of in-kind contribution.

(c) The present capacity in operation of 4120 MWe is planned to be increased to 7280 MWe in the next five years. Work on eight indigenous PHWRs with a total capacity of 5600 MWe and ten Light Water Reactors with a total capacity of 10,000 MWe based on imports has been proposed to be started in the Eleventh Plan. The current average tariff on nuclear power station is about Rs. 2.30.

(d) India's joining ITER is recognition of India's scientific and technological capability in fusion energy. Considering India's large energy needs in future, our gaining technological capability in fusion energy will be of considerable long term